

## Abstract

Agents which modulate a bcl family member to control axonal growth and regeneration are described. These bcl modulating agents promote axonal growth and regeneration in the neural cells of a subject. Compositions for promoting axonal cell growth in a subject also are  
5 described. The compositions of the present invention include an effective amount of an agent which modulates a bcl family member and in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Other described aspects include packaged drugs for treating a state characterized by diminished potential for axonal growth. The packaged compounds and agents also include instructions for using the agent to promote axonal growth in a subject. An exemplary agent is lithium or a salt  
10 thereof.

PCT/US2002/022002